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ITI - Welfare + Public Relations

July 15, 1946 - Jan. 15, 1947

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Subject:- Welfare.

8 British Liaison Unit,
C.M.F.
Tel. Rome - 343140.
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21. October 1946

To:-

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.

(M.H.I.A.)

Ref. your A 224 of 1 October 46, the following report is submitted covering welfare activities in Rome Territorial Command.

1.- WELFARE HOSTELS.

(a)- There is one at No.24 via Guidobaldo del Monte, Rome, functioning under the name of "Posto di sosta per militari alle armi".

It can take up to one hundred service personnel allocated as follows: Army 60; Navy 30; and 10 for the Airforce.

(b)- Eligibility for admission is confined to soldiers (1) discharged from hospitals and having not more than ten days leave.

(II) soldiers who for some reason cannot spend their leave at their home.

(III) any particular cases of a compassionate nature.

It has been found necessary sometimes to accept persons from other Ministries apart from the Armed Services.

(c)- The Hostel Supplies:-

(1) free board and lodging.

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(c)- The Hostel Supplies:-

- (1) free board and lodging .
- (2) bar and canteen at reduced prices
- (3) free barber shop service .
- (4) lounge and writing rooms.
- (5) billiard room.
- (6) small theatre with limited amount of scenery.

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2.- VOLUNTARY WELFARE WORKERS.

There are no full time voluntary workers in any Welfare Organisation.-

There is however occasional service supplied voluntarily by individual civilians and voluntary work provided in cases where it is requested by some specially constituted committee.-

Service at canteens, rest camps, etc., is supplied by civilians who are paid.-

Three personnel of the C.A.F. (Corpo Ausiliario Femminile), allocated to this Command by the War Ministry, receive rations and a small salary.-

There is no suggestion of political bias being the reason for the negligible amount of voluntary welfare service offered to the Army by civilians but rather a general lukewarmness in the attitude of the public and press to the Services.-

3.- S.A.P.A.M.

S.A.P.A.M. is functioning in this Command.-It obtains goods from certain firms for retailing, payment being made after the goods have been sold.-

The organisation is handicapped in this Command by lack of funds and a suitable accommodation.-

Accommodation is likely to be provided shortly in via Labicana.-

Upto date no request has been made to a Bank for a loan as it was considered that this was the department of the Central Organisation at the Ministry of War.-

4.- HOSPITAL WELFARE.

(a) At the Celio Hospital (Territorial Hospital) it is well organised.-

There is a recreation room and a well equipped theatre

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4.- HOSPITAL WELFARE.

(a) At the Celio Hospital (Territorial Hospital) it is well organised.-

There is a recreation room and a well equipped theatre which has already given a number of stage shows ~~and~~ and cinema performances.-

The hospital Directorate have a special fund of L.80.000 with which they can make advances to approved compassionate cases.

Apart from above the Hospital

- distributes tobacco to all patients,
- has mobile cinema equipment to give performances in the wards.-

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(6) Civil Hospitals

The following organisation exists:-

- (1)- A grant of L.60.000 every three months to be utilised for individual and collective welfare.-This money is controlled by the Medical authorities at Territorial Command H.Q.-
- (2)- Gifts of clothing, food, and magazines.-
- (3)- One Officer is appointed as being responsible for the Welfare of each hospital.-
- (4)- periodical visits to patients to endeavour^{to} adjust any complaints or give advice on any personal matters.-
- (5)- distribution of free tickets to local cinemas or sports meetings.-
- (6)- there is usually one cinema or stage show per week in each hospital.-

5.- ENTERTAINMENT.

In Rome Territorial Command, Welfare Services and Public Relations are controlled by the same individual, and the overlapping referred to does occur.-

It has been pointed out that it should be avoided as far as possible.-

6.- WELFARE OFFICERS, STAFF & TRANSPORT.

A Welfare Officer has been appointed for each individual Unit.-

Generally they are carrying out their duties as conscientiously and as well as they can with their limited resources.-

Transport is satisfactory.-Though there is at present no separate allocation of vehicles for welfare, transport is available when required.-

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